



CORPORATION  
FOR NATIONAL  
AND  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

# NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER

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## GOT RESOURCES?

**LEARNS** is a partnership of the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) and the Bank Street College of Education (BSC) designed to provide training and technical assistance to Corporation for National Service projects focused on literacy and education.

The Corporation for National and Community Service and the LEARNS partners announce our new Web-Based Tutor Training. This interactive Web site was created to prepare national service members and volunteers to tutor elementary students in reading.

You can also take advantage of the following additional services:

- Read [The Tutor](#), a quarterly newsletter packed with relevant news and information from the field.
- Check out the LEARNS Web site featuring [downloadable resources](#) and [innovative activities](#). If you have not yet visited the rest of our site, an array of practical tips and strategies for literacy, mentoring, and tutoring programs awaits you.
- Extend your tutor training by bringing the work of children into training sessions with our [videos](#) and companion guides. Each video focuses on a different issue: using multiple reading strategies, developing reading comprehension skills, and working with English language learners. All three of these videos are also available from the [National Service Resource Center](#) by calling their toll-free number, 800-860-2684.

Check out the LEARNS website at <http://www.nwrel.org/learns>.

LEARNS-Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Portland, OR (Randi Douglas, Nancy Henry, Bethany Tomala) call 800-361-7890 or e-mail [learns@nwrel.org](mailto:learns@nwrel.org)

LEARNS-Bank Street College of Education. New York, NY (Judith Gold and Erika Larson) call 800-930-5664 or e-mail [learns@bnkst.edu](mailto:learns@bnkst.edu)

### *Inside this issue:*

#### Current Events

- Conflict Resolution "Core Skills" Training  
December 1 & 2
- Sustainability Training  
December 8 & 9
- eGrants Training  
December 20
- Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration  
January 14
- Rev Dr Martin Luther King Youth Rally & March  
January 17

#### ATTENTION

Nominate an outstanding volunteer for a Governor's Points of Light or a First Lady's Outstanding Service Award. Find more information and a nomination form at [www.nol.org/home/NVSC](http://www.nol.org/home/NVSC).

## Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission 2004-2005

**Executive Director**  
Debra Hartmann

**Honorary Chair**  
Stephanie Johanns

**Chair**  
W. Gary Gates

**Vice Chair**  
Cynthia Buettner

**Organizational Development  
Committee**  
Rick Nation, Chair

**Outreach Committee**  
Cynthia Buettner, Chair

**Program Committee**  
Doug Gibbs, Chair

Susan Aguilar  
Patrick Beans  
Colleen Bostock-Zoubek  
Beatty Brasch  
Susan Cook  
W. Gary Gates  
John "Mike" Kissler  
Curt Krueger  
Arthur May  
Diann Muhlbach  
G.W. "Gerry" Osborn  
Jim Pace  
Ron Sedlacek  
Nancy Wang  
Lois Wine

## COMMISSION NEWS FROM DEBRA



Debra Hartmann, Executive Director

Sometimes the start of a new year encourages us to update our "look". But we thought this year, in recognition of the tenth anniversary of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission, called for more.

So, the Commission is launching a whole new website.

This website, set to go "live" late this winter, isn't just going to look different. It will have a whole new level of functionality and interactivity that will make learning about "all things service" in Nebraska easy and fun!

Look for:

- Online registration for Commission events
- Online nomination forms for the Governor's Points of Light Awards and the First Lady's Awards for Outstanding Community Service
- Register to receive the Commission's e-newsletter
- Pictures and information about Nebraska's AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Learn & Serve and Citizen Corps programs
- Information and resources for National Days of Service, like Make a Difference Day, and Join Hands Day
- Links to volunteer opportunities both inside and outside Nebraska
- Leadership opportunities for service members and volunteers

We'll even have a new, easier to remember, website address.

Ten years of working with great organizations to help fund service programs that positively affect thousands and thousands of Nebraskans is a great reason to celebrate! Thank you for all you do to strengthen Nebraska's spirit of service. See you online.

## NVSC CHAIR



W. Gary Gates

W. Gary Gates begins his first term as Chair of the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission today, May 21, 2004. Mr. Gates was appointed by Governor Johanns to serve on the Commission September 1, 2003 and elected as Chair by his fellow Commissioners in March 2004.

Mr. Gates said, "A desire to better recognize volunteers and encourage volunteers in many aspects of community service is what attracted me to the Commission." Gate's personal and professional experiences which reflect the Commission's values include: serving as President of the Omaha Children's Museum Board of Directors; President of the Make-A-Wish state board and the Offutt Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gates is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Omaha Public Power District [OPPD]. He began his career at OPPD in September 1972. Mr. Gates holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Creighton University, a Master of Science - Industrial Engineering from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and a Bachelor of Science - Engineering Science from Iowa State University.

Since beginning his term as NVSC Chair, Mr. Gates has provided great leadership for the Commission. He has successfully restructured the Commissions working committees and initiated a strategic planning process to set the organizations priorities. Additionally, Mr. Gates has supported various Commission-sponsored events including the 2003-04 Year End Celebration and the 2004-05 AmeriCorps Kick-Off event where he gave opening remarks on the topic of "Leadership and conducted the "Swearing In" Ceremony with new AmeriCorps members.

## REV DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR NATIONAL SERVICE DAY

Service was at the heart of Dr. King's philosophy. "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve," he once said, and he urged Americans to take action to improve the lives of others. The Corporation for National and Community Service encourages organizations/programs that are conducting King Day of Service projects to e-mail the project name, description, location and scope along with contact information at [mlkday@cns.gov](mailto:mlkday@cns.gov). Additionally, new MLK Day of Service resources are available at [www.mlkday.org](http://www.mlkday.org) to help assist you in planning and marketing your service events.

Two events taking place in Lincoln include:

**MLK State Celebration State Capitol Rotunda on Friday, January 14, 2005 from 11:45am-1:00pm.**

**10th Annual Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Youth Rally & March, "Continuing His Puzzle With Our Pieces: A World of Different Backgrounds, One Common Purpose....The Dream" will take place on Monday, January 17, 2005.** Doors will open to the pre-rally event at 8:30am to be held in the Ballroom on the second floor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Student Union [14th & "R" Street]. The march to the State Capitol through downtown Lincoln will begin at 10:00am followed by a rally in the East Legislative Chambers to begin at approximately 10:30am.

## CNCS Releases 2004 Performance and Accountability Report

The Corporation for National and Community Service's fiscal 2004 Performance and Accountability Report submitted to Congress at the end of November where among the many program accomplishments highlighted in the report include:

- Together the Corporation's programs helped to provide over 200 million hours of service and achieved demonstrable results in meeting critical community needs.
- AmeriCorps State and National members served more than 30 million hours and recruited and trained more than 525,000 community volunteers.
- Education awards totaling \$112 million were provided to former AmeriCorps members.

## Research Reveals Positive Impact of Service on AmeriCorps Members

"Serving Country and Community: A Longitudinal Study of Service in AmeriCorps," was conducted by Abt Associates, an independent social policy and research firm. The study, which has been underway since 1998, includes a nationally representative sample of more than 2,000 AmeriCorps members and compares changes in the outcomes over time to those of similarly interested individuals not enrolled in AmeriCorps. Find the executive summary, fact sheet and the full report at [www.nationalservice.org](http://www.nationalservice.org).

The study reveals that AmeriCorps members are more likely than the comparison group to continue to serve in their communities, and to be employed in the public sector—including education, social work, public safety, and the military—after their AmeriCorps service has ended.

David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service called on business, higher education, and Congress to take further actions to demonstrate their support for national service, volunteerism, and civic engagement in America during an address with the National Press Club on December 14. "People who take the AmeriCorps pledge end up as more engaged citizens than they would have been had they not participated in AmeriCorps," said Eisner. "National service programs are important contribu-

## NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION

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*Serve Your Neighbor. Serve Your Community. Serve Your*

### *Our Mission*

*"The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established 1994 to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state, and nation through volunteer and community service."*

**Were On The Web!**  
**[www.nol.org/home/NVSC](http://www.nol.org/home/NVSC)**



## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### **The AmeriCorps Newsletter** Sign up to receive the next issue!

The AmeriCorps eNewsletter is a FREE monthly publication that keeps you up to date with AmeriCorps. Each month, AmeriCorps news, member profiles, program and project highlights, event listings and more!

[http://www.americorps.org/enews/additional\\_info.html](http://www.americorps.org/enews/additional_info.html)

### **A Literacy Resource**

The READSlist Listserv is for experts and practitioners in the field of literacy to share:

- Best practices
- Literature
- Curriculum
- Ideas on how to mobilize volunteers for this effort
- Ideas on how to access work-study funds
- Evaluation strategies

To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to [join-readslist@lists.etr.org](mailto:join-readslist@lists.etr.org). Messages may be read and posted, and subscription settings changed at the Web interface.

### **USA FREEDOM CORPS LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE ENCOURAGING AMERICA'S YOUTH TO VOLUNTEER**

**[www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov)**

The website includes volunteer ideas for youth, online games to show how volunteering can be fun and rewarding, service stories from the President and Mrs. Bush, and information on the President's Volunteer Service Award. The site also has Internet links to other Federal websites about volunteering and sites designed for youth, information on how to contact the President and USA Freedom Corps, resources for parents to find service projects for their child, and information for teachers about how to bring service-learning to their classroom or school.

